

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing security for a computer connected to a data store via a server, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

generating an authentication key based on a user name and a computer identifier;

receiving the ~~an~~ authentication key, ~~a~~ the user name, and the ~~a~~ computer identifier;

parsing the authentication key to obtain a parsed user name and computer identifier; and

validating the received user name and computer identifier using the parsed user name and computer identifier,

wherein said authentication key includes a server user identifier.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein validating comprises determining whether the received user name and computer identifier match the parsed user name and computer identifier.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein a match indicates that the received user name and computer identifier are valid.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising, before parsing, decrypting the authentication key.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising, if the received user name and computer identifier are valid, logging onto the a server ~~connected to the computer~~ with the a-server user identifier and a server password.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising, parsing the authentication key to obtain the server user identifier and server password.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein multiple users share one server user identifier and server password.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the computer is connected to a client and ~~the a~~-server and wherein the authentication key is generated with a client user name, a client computer identifier, ~~thea~~ server user identifier, and a server password.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 98, further comprising encrypting the authentication key.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 98, further comprising forwarding the authentication key to a user.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the computer is connected to a client and ~~a~~-the server, and further comprising:

at the client, transmitting the authentication key, a client user name, and a client computer identifier to the server; and

at the computer,

intercepting the authentication key; and

if the user name and computer identifier are valid, logging onto the server.

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing security, comprising:

a computer having a server data store connected thereto to access a data store;

one or more computer programs, performed by the computer, for generating an authentication key based on a user name and a computer identifier, said authentication key includes a server user name, receiving an the authentication key, a the user name, and a the computer identifier, parsing the authentication key to obtain a parsed user name and computer identifier, and validating the received user name and computer identifier using the parsed user name and computer identifier.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein validating comprises determining whether the received user name and computer identifier match the parsed user name and computer identifier.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein a match indicates that the received user name and computer identifier are valid.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising, before parsing, decrypting the authentication key.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising, if the received user name and computer identifier are valid, logging onto ~~at the~~ server ~~connected to the computer~~ with the a server user identifier and server password.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising, parsing the authentication key to obtain the server user identifier and server password.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein multiple users share one server user identifier and server password.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~13~~20, wherein the computer is connected to a client and ~~the~~a server and wherein the authentication key is generated with a client user name, a client computer identifier, ~~the~~a server user identifier, and a server password.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~21~~0, further comprising encrypting the authentication key.

23. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 21~~0~~, further comprising forwarding the authentication key to a user.

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the computer is connected to a client and ~~the~~a server, and further comprising:

at the client, transmitting the authentication key, a client user name, and a client computer identifier to the server; and

at the computer,

intercepting the authentication key; and

if the user name and computer identifier are valid, logging onto the server.

25. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a computer program carrier readable by a computer connected to a server and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for providing security to ~~the~~the server ~~computer~~-connected to a data store, the method comprising:

generating an authentication key that includes a server user name, based on a user name and a computer identifier;

receiving ~~an~~the authentication key, ~~a~~the user name, and ~~the~~a-computer identifier;

parsing the authentication key to obtain a parsed user name and computer identifier; and

validating the received user name and computer identifier using the parsed user name and computer identifier.

26. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein validating comprises determining whether the received user name and computer identifier match the parsed user name and computer identifier.

27. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 26, wherein a match indicates that the received user name and computer identifier are valid.

28. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 25, further comprising, before parsing, decrypting the authentication key.

29. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 25, further comprising, if the received user name and computer identifier are valid, logging onto the a-server connected to the computer with the a server user identifier and server password.

30. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 29, further comprising, parsing the authentication key to obtain the server user identifier and server password.

31. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 30, wherein multiple users share one server user identifier and server password.

32. (Canceled).

33. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 2532, wherein the computer is connected to a client and ~~a~~the server and wherein the authentication key is generated with a client user name, a client computer identifier, ~~a~~the server user identifier, and a server password.

34. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 332, further comprising encrypting the authentication key.

35. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 332, further comprising forwarding the authentication key to a user.

36. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein the computer is connected to a client and the~~a~~ server, and further comprising:

at the client, transmitting the authentication key, a client user name, and a client computer identifier to the server; and

at the computer,

intercepting the authentication key; and

if the user name and computer identifier are valid, logging onto the server.

37. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the generated authentication key for access to the server, is emailed to a user.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein when the client transmits the generated authentication key, the user name and the computer identifier, to the server, the authentication key is intercepted and validated by the computer.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein when the computer determines that the received user name and the computer identifier match the parsed user name and the computer identifier, the computer parses the authentication key to obtain the server user identifier and the server password.

40. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the parsed server user identifier and the parsed server password is transmitted to the server, connecting the client computer to the server.

41. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the authentication key comprises the computer identifier split into portions and the portions being interposed between the user name, the server user identifier and the server password prior to encryption.

42. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the computer identifier is an IP address.

43. (New) A method of providing security for a computer connected to a data store, the method comprising:

generating an authentication key based on a user name and a computer identifier;

receiving the authentication key, the user name, and the computer identifier;

parsing the authentication key to obtain a parsed user name and computer identifier; and

validating the received user name and computer identifier using the parsed user name and computer identifier,

wherein said authentication key includes a user identifier for the computer connected to the data store.